



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9  
Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi  
Unit 7, Lesson 36

## Jonah and the Ninevites

Lesson Aim: To know God gives second chances because He cares about everyone.

### THE WELCOME

**MEET & GREET:** When has someone given you a second chance?

**GAME:** Dodge Fish

### THE WORSHIP THE GOD OF POWER

Read Worship Scripture: Jonah 2:7-9.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform The Love Shuttle script or read storybook.

### THE WORD GOD GIVES JONAH A SECOND CHANCE

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God sent a message to His people through the prophet Joel.

**Today, we will learn about Jonah and the good news that God will always give us second chances to turn away from wrongdoing.** Point to Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.). Point to Nineveh. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:1-2, 5-11. Find and Highlight Key Verse First: Jonah 4:2. Pray.

**READERS' THEATRE:** Let's act out our Bible passage.

### THE WAY GOD GIVES EVERYONE SECOND CHANCES

**How did God give Jonah a second chance when he was in the belly of the fish?** (God had the fish spit Jonah onto the shore. God told Jonah a second time to go warn the Ninevites.) **Have you ever been sorry for your wrongdoing and wanted a second chance to make things right? Has someone ever given you a second chance to do the right thing? Have you ever given someone else a second chance when they wronged you?**

**Why was Jonah angry that God gave the Ninevites a second chance?** (He wanted God to punish them.) **Have you ever been angry when others were not punished for their wrongdoings? Jonah didn't want to give the people of Nineveh a second chance. Is there someone in your life who needs you to give them a second chance?**

The Ninevites were known for doing evil. They hurt many of God's people. Did Jonah have the right to be angry about God's choice concerning the Ninevites He created? What did God show Jonah by growing the vine and sending the worm to destroy it? Jonah learned He had no right to complain about the choices God made concerning the vine He created. What changes did God see in the king and the Ninevites after Jonah warned them? (They were sorry. They repented.) **To repent is to turn from doing things our way and to choose to do things God's way instead.**

Every wrongdoing deserves punishment, but we are blessed because God does not always give us what we deserve. That's called mercy. By giving the Ninevites a second chance, God showed He loves the whole world, not just His own people. He will give a second chance to anyone, no matter who they are or what evil they have done, if they just believe and repent.

### **CHRIST CONNECTION:**

God showed His great patience when He gave Jonah and the Ninevites a second chance to repent and be close with Him. 800 years later, Peter explained how God still shows His great patience with us today. People were asking why God had not yet kept His promise that Jesus would return, coming with the clouds, to judge the world. Reveal 2 Peter 3:9. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

**God is patient with us and gives us many, many chances to repent. What did Jesus have to do to give the whole world a second chance for life forever close with God?** (He had to take our punishment of death by dying on the cross.)

**THE GOLDEN BOWL:** Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

### **FINAL FIVE MINUTES:**

- TREASURE TREAT: Worm-shaped snack
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Jonah praying to God from inside the big fish
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

### GOT TIME?

**SNACK:** Little Fish, Big Fish

**GAME:** Second Chance Toss

**CRAFT:** Jonah and the Giant Fish Mobile

**DISCUSSION:** The Sign of Jonah, What Happened Next?

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES:** Picture God's Power, Unscramble the Verse

**BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW**